

Life Group Discussion Guide

Rededicating My Family

In the sermon this week, Dave talked about how the people renewed their covenant with God after the miraculous restoration of the city walls. After many decades of ruin, Gods people were starting fresh, they wanted to return to the God who returned them to their home land. Maybe God is calling us to rededicate our own marriage & family. Nehemiah reveals what that might look like.

Nehemiah 6:15-16 Says: *“So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days. 16And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem, for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God.”*

This is an interesting observation by the enemies of the Jewish people who attributed credit to God for the rebuilding of the walls. Even Nehemiah credited God with the rebuilding of the walls, although he personally demonstrated stellar leadership & the people worked round the clock under a well crafted strategy which maxed the capacity of their productivity.

We could call this **pragmatic faith**. A faith that harmonizes the Sacred & Secular to serve the purposes of God. A faith that prays like it is up to God, yet works like it is up to us.

Q? What can we learn about how God uses the joining of sacred/spiritual & secular/practical to accomplish his will? What does it look like when we operate in one without the other? Explain:

Q? How does a pragmatic faith look in the building of strong families? Can you give an example? Explain:_____

After the walls were completed in a miraculous period of time, we see the gathering & rededication of all the families take place as they enter a time of repentance & renewal of their covenant with God.

In your groups read aloud Nehemiah 8:1- 8

Q? What stands out to you from this passage in light of “how” the rededication of the people was initiated? _____

The event you just read about is called the Feast of Trumpets. It took place on the first day of the seventh month, as they assembled together at the Temple. It was a holy convocation commanded on the feast day of Trumpets, as on the Sabbath & other annual feast days as well (Lev 23):

A convocation is an assembly of people who've been called together. In Hebrew, it is from the root word meaning ***"to call out, to cry out, to proclaim, to summon."*** Literally an assembly of called out ones. The word "church" comes from the Greek word ekklesia which is defined as ***"an assembly" or "called-out ones."***

Q? What have we the church (the ekklesia) been "called out" from? _____

In your groups read aloud Hebrews 10:24-25

Q? Although the church isn't defined by the weekend gathering alone, how important to the strength of our home is this weekly time where families come together for worship & the word? **Why?** _____

In your groups read aloud Nehemiah 8:9-12

Hard work & sacrifice is central to the rebuilding a strong family. We see Nehemiah instruct the people to end the weeping and begin celebrating.

Q? How important is fun & celebration in our mission to our family? Do you feel it is a missing ingredient in today's fast pace reality? **Discuss:** _____

Close your groups by discussing this final set of questions:

The leaders reminded the people, "the joy of the LORD is your strength."

Q? What is the joy of the Lord? How is it the strength of our home? How do we obtain it?
Discuss: